

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 DOEE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2200
INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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USEEC

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TAGS: PEPR, PINT, TU, CY, GR, US
SUBJ: JUNE 3-5 TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF PRIMIN ECEVIT'S
US VISIT
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REF: ANKARA 4198

1. SUMMARY. JUNE 3-5 TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF PRIMIN
ECEVIT'S CURRENT VISIT TO THE US CONTINUED TO BE UPBEAT,
WITH ALL MAJOR PAPERS (INCLUDING NORMALLY ANTI-ECEVIT
TERCUMAN) PALYING UP ECEVIT'S "SUCCESS" IN PRESENTING

TURKEY'S CASE REGARDING THE US ARMS EMBARGO AND THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. JUNE 2 NY TIMES ARTICLE ON PRESIDENTIAL PLANS FOR CONTACTING CONGRESSMEN ON EMBARGO ISSUE WAS WIDELY REPORTED, REINFORCING IMPRESSION OF PRESIDENT'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. ECEVIT'S ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF NONAGGRESSION PACT WITH GREECE GENERALLY GIVEN ONLY SECONDARY COVERAGE. ECEVIT'S REMARKS TO UN SSOD OVERSHADOWED BY THE EMBARGO ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. UPBEAT COVERAGE OF PRIMIN ECEVIT'S CURRENT VISIT TO THE US CONTINUED JUNE 3-5; IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED HEADLINES EMPHASIZING FAVORABLE OPINION TRENDS IN THE US, ALL FIVE OF TURKEY'S MOST WIDELY-CIRCULATED NEWSPAPERS--LEFTIST CUMHURIYET, LIBERAL MILLIYET, INDEPENDENT HURRIYET AND GUNAYDIN, AND CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN--SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO ECEVIT'S "SUCCESS" IN PRESENTING TURKEY'S CASE. PRAISE WAS SOMEWHAT MUTED (BUT EXPLICIT) IN GENERALLY ANTI-US CUMHURIYET AND GENERALLY ANTI-ECEVIT TERCUMAN, BUT JUNE 3 HURRIYET RAN COLUMNS BY METIN TOKER AND CUNEYT ARCA YUREK IN PRAISE OF ECEVIT. DESCRIBING ECEVIT'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB APPEARANCE, SEN. TOKER (WHO IS NORMALLY ANTI-ECEVIT) SAID THAT IN 35 YEARS OF JOURNALISM HE HAD NEVER SEEN "SUCH A SUCCESSFUL TURKISH PRIME MINISTER IN AN INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE," NOTING THAT ECEVIT'S SKILL IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS "BROUGHT TEARS TO MY UNCLASSIFIED

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EYES." ARCA YUREK SAID THAT "UP TO NOW, NO ONE HAS EVER EXPLAINED OUR PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE EMBARGO AND NATO SO COURAGEOUSLY, SO SINCERELY, AND IN SUCH DETAIL" AS ECEVIT HAS. GUNAYDIN'S COVERAGE HAS PERHAPS BEEN THE MOST POSITIVE, AS SHOWN BY HEADLINES: JUNE 3--"ECEVIT WON THE DIPLOMACY BATTLE IN WASHINGTON*", JUNE 4--"TURKEY WON RESPECT AND HONOR IN AMERICA'S EYES," AND JUNE 5--"THE GREEKS HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO CONFUSION."

3. REPLAYS OF THE JUNE 2 NYT STORY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLANS FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONTACT WORK WERE WIDELY PRINTED IN THE JUNE 3 PRESS, FORMING THE MAIN FRONT-PAGE STORY IN MILLIYET BUT GENERALLY OVERSHADOWED BY NEWS OF THE ASSASSINATIONS IN MADRID (SEPTEL). ALTHOUGH PRO-MOSCOW POLITIKA, WHICH ALSO USED CARTER'S PLANS AS ITS MAIN STORY, EMPHASIZED THAT CIA HEAD WOULD PLAY A PART IN ADMINISTRATION LOBBYING, IN MOST CASES GENERAL EFFECT OF THE STORY WAS TO REINFORCE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO A MAJOR EFFORT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO.

5. ECEVIT'S ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF GREEK PRIMIN

CARAMANLIS'S SUGGESTION OF NONAGGRESSION PACT, AND HIS
CHARACTERIZATION OF SUCH A PACT BETWEEN ALLIES AS
"ABNORMAL," WAS WIDELY CARRIED, BUT WAS GENERALLY GIVEN
LESS PROMINENT TREATMENT THAN OTHER STOREIS ON THE VISIT,
ALTHOUGH IT WAS THE MAIN STORY IN MILLIYET JUNE 5.
ECEVIT'S REMARKS TO UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT WERE
GENERALLY GIVEN LESS PROMINENCE THAN EMBARGO STORIES EXCEPT
IN LEFTIST PRESS. DILLON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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